

Tenants say weekend vandalism on industrial estate must end

TENANTS at Bransford Industrial estate in East Peckham are fed up with continuous weekend vandalism, which leaves them dreading the damage on Monday mornings.

The latest incident between midday on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday at Artefact Display Workshops, highlights the need for action on the Allied Dunbar owned estate, they claim.

Police are trying to tackle the mounting problems which started three months ago, and have seen many companies on the privately owned estate targeted.

Artefact has suffered two break-ins during the past week, with "hundreds of pounds" worth of hand power tools stolen in the first break-in, and further costs to repair smashed windows.

Gary Waters, proprietor of Artefact said: "It is sickening. We are taking steps to increase security, although we need CCTV for the whole site."

Original estate tenants, Optica Printing, has had doors and windows smashed causing about £150 worth of damage.

"Two vehicles were broken into outside the premises in daylight, and others have been abandoned on the site."

Andrew Procter, Optica managing director and chairman, said: "We are fed up. You don't know what to expect when you go in on a Monday morning."

Asahi Selko of Europe LTD, a Japanese owned company, has suffered about £700 worth of damage, including smashed windows.

Chris Sutton, general manager, said: "It is becoming difficult to explain the incidents to our owners. They don't believe us."

Padlock Wood community police officer, Pc Chris Goddard, said: "It has become a problem over the last few months. Some of it is minor vandalism, whilst other incidents are more serious. We are working to resolve it."

A spokesman for Thredneedle Investment, Allied Dunbar, said: "We are co-operating with local police and tenants and are calling a tenants meeting."

The sports and leisure centre has planned activities for children aged seven upwards, including an inflatable assault course, ice skating, bowling, swimming, a visit to the Hop farm, as well as regular sports and activities.

Sport active sessions cost around £6.50, running between 8.30am and 4.30pm from July 26 to September 1. Numbers are limited so early bookings are essential.

Blazing car

A BLAZING Ford Escort estate called firefighters to the Hop Farm in Beltring on Friday night.

The fire took place in surrounding woods at about 9.30pm, while War and Peace Show celebrations were taking place.

Padlock Wood fire station attended the fire and said there were suspicious circumstances for the blaze which they suspect was caused by arsonists.

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A FUN packed programme to entertain the kids this summer is offered by Fildans in Padlock Wood.

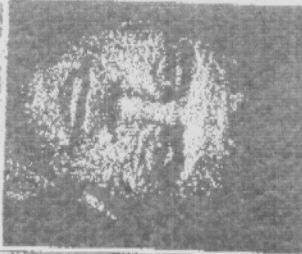
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Gipsies angry as fair is scrapped

Courier photo 12678708



THE GYPSY Council is angry and disappointed with the decision to cancel Horsmonden Horse Fair, usually held on the second Sunday of September.

At a meeting at Horsmonden community centre, parish councillors told Gypsy Council members about the decision.

Anne Bagehot, secretary of the East Sussex based Gypsy Council, said: "We went hoping it would be a discussion to sort problems out, but soon realised the decision had already been made without our consultation."

"I asked for information, but never received it. We feel we have been misled."

Horsmonden parish has been organised near the M25 which has been the cause of the fair.

"The meeting was the first dealings we have had with the Gypsy Council, and it was arranged at their convenience."

"It is difficult to publicise the cancellation, although we have made attempts to contact them at other fairs."

"An alternative fair has been organised near the M25 which has been the cause of the fair."

At the meeting on Thursday last week, she asked the council if it was illegal to picnic on the green.

The answer was no so she replied that lots of them would have to picnic on the green instead.

Residents of the village, from Maidstone Road, said: "It will be a shame to see it go. Horsmonden will not be the same without it. I think it should stay."

But views in the village are varied. Anders Selroder, 79, from School house Lane, said: "Anything causing trouble, dirt or upset to the village should be avoided. I agree with the decision to cancel it."

The fair's past history has included two incidents with fending gipsy families.

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Big fish caught in lake

WEATHER disappointed fisherman at Cribbins Carp Carnival on Sunday, although the charity event remained a great success.

Seventeen anglers took part in the competition in Collis Hill, raising about £1,000 for Sports Aiding Medical Research for Kids (SPARKS), with vice-president Bernard Cribbins taking part.

Mr Cribbins, 71, told

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FED UP Landscaper Richard McCartney Sort it, PM, says stolen van owner

A LIVID landscaper from Five Oak Green has written to the Prime Minister after two of his vehicles were stolen within nine days.

Richard McCartney, 35, decided he'd had enough in the early hours of Monday morning last week, shortly after his second vehicle was stolen from his home in Maidstone Road.

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